

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 2, 6 and 18 as follows:

21
1. (Thrice Amended) A protective helmet [of the type] including a main outer shell formed by a wall having a front facial opening, said main outer shell includes a plurality of wall portions, namely, an upper front wall portion extended rearwardly by an upper rear wall portion, which is itself extended downwardly by a lower rear wall portion limited downwardly by a lower edge, and wherein the rear lower portion of the wall, which corresponds to the zone occupied by the nape of the user, includes resilient bending means formed unitarily and in one-piece with said main outer shell.

22
2. ³ (Twice Amended) A protective helmet according to claim [1] ~~21~~, ² wherein the wall of the main outer shell is made out of a deformable material.

23
3. ⁶ (Twice Amended) A protective helmet according to claim ~~4~~, ⁵ wherein the composite material is formed of [the type constituted by] at least one layer of at least one of glass fibers, [and/or] carbon fibers [and/or] and aramid fibers impregnated with one of a thermoplastic [or] and a thermohardening resin.

4. ⁷ (Twice Amended) A protective helmet according to claim 1, wherein [the main outer shell includes a plurality of wall portions, namely, an upper front wall portion extended rearwardly by an upper rear wall portion, which is itself extended downwardly by a lower rear wall portion limited downwardly by a lower edge, and in that] said

P15742.A09



resilient bending means in said lower rear wall portion includes at least one cutout.

Please add the following new claim:

---21. ² A protective helmet according to claim 1, wherein said bending means terminates at a position less than half the height of the helmet.

22. A protective helmet according to claim 18, wherein said bending portion terminates at a position less than half the height of the helmet.---

REMARKS

Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 will have been amended, claims 21 and 22 have been newly presented, and claims 1-22 are pending for reconsideration by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and allowance of all claims pending in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

Initially, the Applicants would like to express appreciation for the personal interview conducted on August 18, 1999 with their attorney, Mr. William E. Lyddane. During the interview, photographs of Applicants' protective helmet were submitted and discussed, and the differences between the protective helmet of the present invention and the prior art of record were discussed. Furthermore, the Examiner's indication that the